

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
OMB-01 MCE-00 TRSE-00 /106 W
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O R 281947Z JUL 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2650

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2167

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV MILI RH CU MZ

SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZANU ASKS CUBANS FOR ARMS

1. ZANU REPRESENTATIVE IN US TIRAVAFI KANGAI INFORMED USINT OFFICER, AFTER APPLYING FOR VISA, JULY 28, THAT ROBERT MUGABE (WHOM HE IS ACCOMPANYING HERE) WILL ASK CUBANS FOR ARMS, UNIFORMS, AND MEDICINE. KANGAI SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT MUGABE WOULD ASK FOR CUBAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS SINCE ZANU TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ARE HANDLED ADEQUATELY BY TANZANIANS AND ZANU CADRES. KANGAI DENIED THAT THERE ARE ANY CUBANS NOW IN MOZAMBIQUE OPERATING WITH, OR HELPING, ZANU.

2. KANGAI INDICATED THAT THIS IS FIRST TRIP BY MUGABE TO CUBA IN LONG TIME. (PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MUGABE TRIP PRESUMABLY IS ATTENDANCE OF WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL). KANGAI INDICATED THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT CUBANS HAVE GREATEST SYMPATHY FOR NKOMO, BUT HE SAID
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THAT ZANU'S OWN RELUCTANCE TO SEEK CUBAN HELP MAY HAVE BEEN MAIN BARRIER IN PAST TO RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE FROM HAVANA.

3. AS OF MORNING JULY 28, KANGAI SAID, MUGABE HAD NOT YET TALKED WITH CASTRO AND IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD DO SO BEFORE HIS ANTICIPATED DEPARTURE, JULY 31. (COMMENT: USINT IS CONFIDENT THAT CASTRO WILL RECEIVE MUGABE.) KANGAI INDI-

CATED THAT MUGABE ARRIVED ONE HOUR AFTER LAST PLANE DEPARTED FOR SANTIAGO DE CUBA, JULY 26 - THUS PREVENTING ZANU LEADER FROM BEING PRESENT FOR CASTRO'S SPEECH.(COMMENT:NKOMO SAT ADJOINING CUBAN POLITBURO DURING SPEECH).

4. KANGAI DID NOT DISCUSS ANY PLANS FOR NKOMO-MUGABE DISCUSSION DURING THEIR JOINT STAY HERE. HE DID, HOWEVER, DENY REPORTS CIRCULATED HERE BY PATRIOTIC FRONT (ACTUALLY ZAPU) REPRESENTATIVE DUBE THAT ZAPU HAS OPERATIONAL PRESENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE ZONE. KANGAI SAID ZAPU WOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND IN "LIBERATED AREAS" OF RHODESIA CONTROLLED BY ZANU IF ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH NKOMO ON FORMATION OF A UNITED ARMY. (COMMENT: KANGAI IMPLIED THAT UNITED ARMY CONCEPT MIGHT BE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION HERE.) KANGAI REITERATED THAT ZANU, NOT ZAPU, CONTROLS OVERWHELMING BULK OF FIGHTING LIBERATION FORCES.

5. KANGAI INVITED USINT OFFICER TO SOLICIT INTERVIEW WITH MUGABE, BUT USINT OFFICER, UNSURE OF IMPLICATIONS IN LIGHT OF NKOMO-MUGABE RIVALRY, DEMURRED. MOREOVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO USINT RELATIONS WITH CUBANS TO SEEK SUCH A MEETING.

6. FYI: CUBAN PRESS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED PRESENCE OF MUGABE HERE. PRINCIPAL RHODESIAN COVERAGE TODAY IS FALSE REPORT OF SENATE PASSAGE OF HELMS AMENDMENT-A DISTORTION
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WHICH CUBA MAY ATTEMPT TO USE WITH NKOMO AND MUGABE.
END FYI.
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